

NI Bulletin



MAY

1972

Ninety-fifth meeting of
NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL
Wednesday, May 17, 1972, 7:30 P.M.
Republic Savings and Loan Assn.
Community Room - East Side
6300 East Mockingbird Lane
DALLAS, TEXAS, U.S.A.

PROGRAM: "Thalers of Prussia - 1750 to 1871"

SPEAKER: Dr. Howard Ford

Dr. Ford will accompany his lecture on this very popular series of crowns with color slides and also will present a display of the series. A copy of the lecture, along with the slides, will be added to the NI Library shortly after this program is completed and will be available for loan to members wishing to use it for their own local club outside of Dallas area.

AUGUST MEETING: The regular August 1972 meeting of Numismatics International will be held at the American Numismatic Association's annual convention in New Orleans, La. The NI meeting will be held in Meeting Room No. 3 on the second floor of the Jung Hotel at 10:00 A.M., Friday, August 18th. We shall look forward to renewing friendships and getting acquainted with other NI members at this meeting.

FREE COFFEE

AUCTION

DOOR PRIZES

NI Bulletin

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INSIDE N. I.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

APRIL APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP: Membership Applications No. 744-758 published in the April 1972 NI Bulletin have been admitted to membership with the exception of No. 746.

MAY APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by June 1, 1972 their membership will become effective that date. (MT - Will Trade by Mail).

- 759-MT C. Daniel Clark, P. O. Box 258, Douglas, Wyoming 82633
(Roman, Byzantine, Biblical)
- 760-MT Charles C. Hawkins, 6 Painter St., Canton, N. C. 28716
(Canada, Panama)
- 761-MT Carroll H. Ragsdale, 9240 E. Larosa Dr., Temple City, Calif. 91780 -- (Irish Coins and Tokens)
- 762 K. M. Chouraria, C/O Jeetmull Jaichandlall, 109, Netaji Subhas Road, Calcutta-1, India -- (World Types)
- 763-MT Peter G. Perry, Box 217, Cookstown, N. J. 08511
(Great Britain Tokens)
- 764-MT Thos. B. Howard, 3201 Henderson Mill Rd., 33 B, Atlanta, Ga. 30341 -- (India)
- 765 Alcedo Almanzar, Suite D, Milam Bldg., San Antonio, Tex 78205
(Dealer in World Coins)
- 766-MT Mrs. Wm. Rust, Sr., Star Route Box 179-B, Graford, Tex. 76045
(Odd and Curious, Currency)
- 767-MT Willis C. Williams, 4619 University Dr., Wichita Falls, Tex. 76308 -- (Everything)
- 768-MT Donald W. Orton, N.C.S. Box 55, FPO New York, 09544
(World Types, Morocco)
- 769-MT R. W. Nelms, 218 Stacy Weaver Dr., Fayetteville, N.C. 28301
(Pure Nickel and Southern Rhodesia)
- 770-MT Douglas D. Cox, 514 Dixie Drive, Enterprise, Ala. 36330
(World Types, German)
- 771-MT Anthony J. Naleway, 6814 W. Dickens Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60635
(Type Sets)
- 772 Roger Martinson, 14157 Sayre St., Sylmar, Calif. 91342
(Proof Sets)
- 773-MT Jeff Sandvig, P. O. Box 246, Hermitage, Tenn. 37076
(China and Indian States)

REINSTATEMENTS: The following member has complied with the By-Laws and is hereby reinstated to full membership:

147 Rex O. McGee, 8304 Kate St., Dallas, Texas 75225
(Dealer in World Coins)

CHANGES OF ADDRESSES AND COLLECTING SPECIALTIES:

403 Dr. N. Greenwald, A.U.T.E.C. Box 152, FPO New York 09559
(Ancients and Hanoverian)

305-MT William L. Spencer, P. O. Box 9684, El Paso, Texas 79986
(Japan, 20th Century Types)

722-MT William B. Warden, Jr. P. O. Box 356, New Hope, Pa. 18938
(Sassanian, Arabian, India)

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NEWS FROM THE TNA CONVENTION OF LAST MONTH: NI member Frances Landon won the Frank O'Sullivan award for the best exhibit of Ancient coins at the Texas Numismatic Association Annual Convention in Dallas, April 16-18th. Jack Lewis also won an award for his exhibit of Ancient Chinese Monies.

NI was well represented in the TNA coin exhibit as the following NI members were judges of various foreign categories: Leo DeLand, Ross Schraeder, Irving Berlin, William E. Benson and M. C. Smith.

The regular monthly meeting of NI held last month at the TNA convention was highly successfull. A turnout of close to 60 members and guests attended the meeting and heard one of the best programs we have had in several months, Bill Benson and K. T. Edward's lecture on "Baubles and Barter From Around the World". An auction of over 60 lots was conducted at the end of the program.

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CZECHOSLOVAK COIN PUBLICATION: NI's first major publication, "Czechoslovak Coins 1918-1970" should be back from the printer for this month's meeting, hopefully. All advance orders will be put in the mail during the month of May, probably the later part. If you have not ordered your copy at the special pre-publication price of \$2.25, you had better get your order in the mail quickly. As soon as the book is released, the price will be \$3.00. Quantity discounts are available to dealers.

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MEMBERSHIP LIST: A new membership list effective May 1, 1972 will be included in this month's mailing. All members are requested to keep the contents of this list confidential. Do not recopy the list or allow any non-member use of the list without permission of the Board of Governors. Please check your individual listing to see if it is correct. Any corrections should be sent immediately to the membership chairman, Jack E. Lewis, at the regular club mailing address.

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4th NI MAIL BID SALE: A special mail bid sale listing is included with this month's mailing. This special sale comprises of lots from one person, the widow of an avid foreign coin collector who died several years ago leaving the large collection in a lock-box. The NI Board of Governors and the Mail Bid Committee agreed to conduct this sale on an experimental basis. This sale is in addition to the two member-owned lot sales we plan to conduct during 1972. The second of the member-owned lot sales will be announced at a later date. DO NOT SEND LOTS FOR THAT SALE UNTIL CALLED FOR IN THE NI BULLETIN.

This special mail bid sale will close bidding on June 25th, so please look over the listing and get your bids in early. Rules governing this sale will be the same as other NI Mail Bid Sales. This is a large sale and the club commission from it should go a long way in cancelling the club deficit carried over from previous years -- the main reason we agreed to conduct the sale in the first place.

ALL LOTS WILL BE SOLD AS THE OWNER HAS NOT PLACED MINIMUM BIDS ON ANY LOTS. Ridiculously low bids however will be rejected.

~~~~~

3RD NI MAIL BID SALE: Bidding on this sale closed as of April 25th. Successful bidders will be receiving your lots shortly, along with an invoice. Your prompt payment of this invoice is urged so that checks will not be delayed in getting out to the owners of the lots. We wish to express appreciation to everyone participating in this past sale.

~~~~~

BACK ISSUES OF NI BULLETINS FOR SALE: The following issues of NI Bulletins are still available at a cost of \$.25 cents each:

1970 -- All issues except May 1971 and 1972 -- All issues to date.

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE REPORT: The total membership through this month's applications now stands at 438, only 62 short of our long-awaited goal of 500 members. It now appears sure that we will reach the goal of 500 during 1972 so you may not have long to win a year's free dues by signing up 10 new members in NI. Once the 500th active member has been signed up the drive will come to a close.

Since inception of the drive, the following members have signed up:

- 39 -- Patrick D. Hogan (1971, 1972 and 1973 Dues Free)
- 34 -- Dolores H. Davis (1971, 1972 and 1973 Dues Free)
- 23 -- Lester Snell (1972 and 1973 Dues Free)
- 17 -- Salvatore DiGloria (1972 Dues Free)
- 9 -- John Hunter
- 7 -- Darwin Gregory
- 6 -- Fred Drost
- 5 -- William E. Benson, Bud Butterworth, William K. Carey, Lee E. Harvey, Jack E. Lewis
- 4 and less -- A number of members have signed up 4 or less and to conserve space those names will not be listed.

GET YOUR NAME ON THE ABOVE LIST AND WIN A FREE YEAR'S DUES.

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LIBRARIAN'S REPORT: The follow item has been added to the NI Library and is now available for 30-day loan periods:

Book or Periodical

Donor

"World Proof and Specimen Issues Since 1950"  
by Charles R. Hosch

Charles Hosch

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COMMENT FROM THE NI LIBRARIAN: For the past six months to a year, the performance of your club librarian has been lousy. Now, I think this important, though little used, facility of our club will be handling your requests much better than in the past. All past problems have been my fault, and I apologize for delays you may have suffered.

If you have had problems getting material in the past, please try again. There will often be a week's delay because of my work, but you will receive better service than in the past.

Bob Tomlinson, NI Librarian

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COMMENT FROM THE EDITOR: I have recently moved to Lubbock, Texas, a distance of over 300 miles from NI's headquarters in Dallas, Texas. All mail dealing strictly with the NI Bulletin should be forwarded to me at my Lubbock address:

P. O. Box 2070, Lubbock, Texas 79408

# Counterfeit

## Siamese

### Bullet

### Coins

by Albert J. Ruh



SOMETIMES IT IS VERY DIFFICULT to determine the authenticity of Siamese bullet coins because most people have not had the opportunity to inspect very many of them.

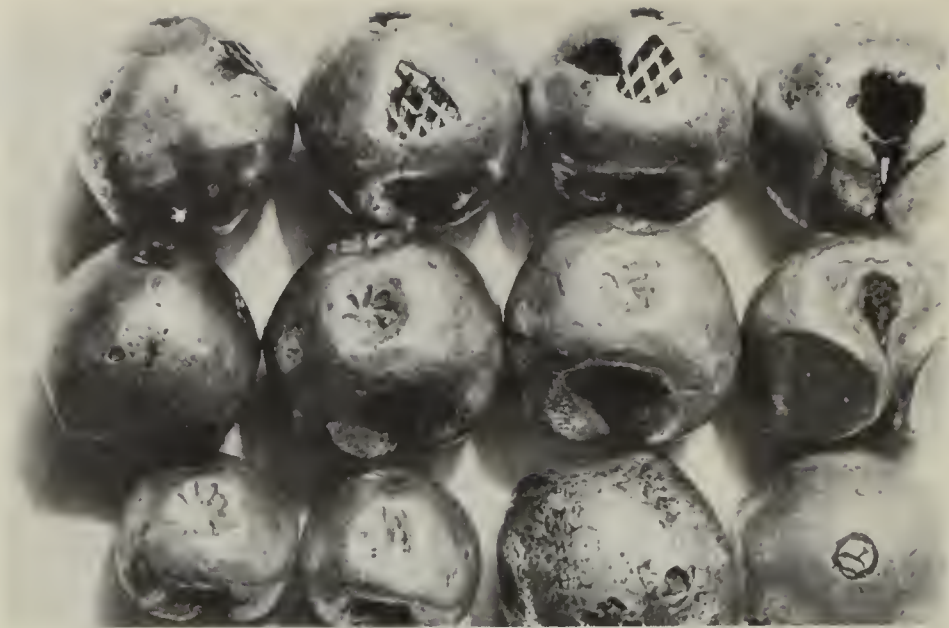
Over the years I have been able to inspect literally thousands of bullet coins and took the photos presented in this article of representative counterfeits.

Counterfeit bullet coins are unusual in that they usually contain as much silver as a genuine coin and were not made initially to sell to collectors. They were made to use in making necklaces and bracelets of bullet coins that are valued by the Thais. Often a silversmith could not obtain sufficient genuine coins to complete a necklace, so he merely cast or forged the number and size he needed. Occasionally a disreputable smith diluted the silver or attempted to use silver-plated coins.



The photo above shows cast replicas of the 1 Baht "Krut" mark (Craig No. 20) and the 1 Baht "Prasad" mark (Craig No. 47) on top and genuine coins below. The shapes of the cast coins are quite different from genuine coins.

The photobelow shows a variety of one baht counterfeits. The two in the lower left are one-half baht counterfeits. All of these coins are cruder than any genuine coins.



The photo below shows the type of counterfeit most often encountered -- fairly well made coins of 1/8 and 1/4 baht size. Often entire strings of the same mark can be found in Thai coin shops. The center coin in the top row is copper whose silver plating wore off.



A good rule of thumb is that genuine bullet coins "may" have a hole drilled in them for stringing, but counterfeits "always" have a hole. Thus if you have two coins with identical marks but one has a hole, you can be fairly certain that they are genuine.

Bullet coins minted prior to 1767 are not illustrated in Craig and only experience can determine authenticity. However, few of these earlier coins have gotten to the States and they are getting very rare even in Thailand.

# THE STORY OF THE LUNAWADA COINS

by Soli R. Icewalla, Bombay, India



THE STATE OF LUNAWADA, ALSO KNOWN AS LUNAWARA, IS SITUATED in the Rewa Kantha District of the then Bombay Presidency. It has a capital bearing the same name. Founded in 1434 by the Rana Bhim Singhji, it has a total area of 1736 square miles.

From 1867 to 1929 it was ruled by the Maharana Wakhat Singhji who issued the Lunawada copper paisas. These coins are mostly available in rather imperfect square or oblong shapes.



Imperfect Square



Imperfect Oblong

They bear on the obverse side the imprint of a lion with a straight sword below it. On the obverse side there also appears the legend

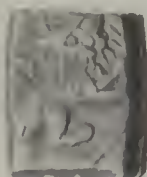
૬૨૧૧૪૧૬૧

(Lunawada) in Gujarati script. On the reverse side,

the name of the ruler Maharana Wahkat Singhji is written in Gujarati

in full or simply as મ. વ. સ. (M. W. S.), the letters signi-

fying the initials of the Maharana. It has been elicited from the local people that the lion on these coins depicts the trial of strength between the Maharana and the lion. On festive days the Maharana was said to fight publicly a lion and kill it by tearing apart its jaws with his bare hands.



Half Paisa  
(cut from one paisa)



Obverse and Reverse of One  
Paisa showing that a bit has  
been chipped off from the side.

Apart from the Lunawada one paisas, half paisas also came into circulation at that time. The local people narrate that due to paucity of metal in those days, if payments of less than a paisa had to be made, the holder of a Lunawada paisa would take the same to the local smith who would cut it into 2 pieces. The smith extracted payment for his services in the form of bits of metal chipped off from the

one paisa coins. The study of a few Lunawada paisas shows that a bit of metal has been chipped off from their side.

The Lunawada one paisas have been listed in the 3rd edition of the "Guidebook and Catalogue of British Commonwealth Coins", by Remick, et al. The half paisas will perhaps find a place of mention in the next edition. Other types of Lunawada coins, all in copper, also exist and a separate article will be written covering those. The coins of Lunawada being rather scarce, it is necessary to study some more specimens and collect additional data which will be put before readers of the NI Bulletin in due course.

(Editor's Note: The Lunawada coins will be included for the first time in R. S. Yeoman's "Modern World Coins - 10th Edition" due out this month.)

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### LET THE BUYER BEWARE

by J. C. Koors

Although I am a relative newcomer to coin collecting, I routinely receive a number of unsolicited coin lists from many parts of the U. S. It has only been recently however that I have noticed what appears to be a rash of false advertising and irregular pricing schemes. For instance: a mailing list received from Rhode Island was the exact duplicate of one I received from Massachusetts (only the dealers name was changed to protect the innocent?). While I would presume it possible that both of these dealers could obtain any of the coins offered (through a central supply channel?) so as to meet customer demands, nevertheless, the fact they advertise something they may not in fact have in stock strikes me as rather unethical, if not downright false advertising. The further fact that both dealers prices are "subject to change without notice" convinces me that there is something rotten in New England.

Similarly, a certain California dealer sent me a coin list which very closely approximated his list for "Mail Bid Sale No. 3". This would not have been questioned except for the fact the "Bid" price estimates were in many cases considerably higher than the "List" prices. Also, there was the amusement regarding the date on which the bidding closed....."Approximately 2 weeks from the day you receive this list". Since my list came by last-class-slow-boat mail and took nearly 2 months to arrive, it was either a long mail bid sale or a fake. Apparently this California dealer feels it is acceptable for his customers to buy a Gem Unc U.S. 1818 Large Cent outright for \$77.00 or to bid for it around \$95.00. Or is he trying to tell us he will sell this coin at "anything you will pay over \$77.00"? Or are you gullible enough to believe he will send you this coin for your "high bid" of \$55.00? Let the buyer beware?

Now that I have had my say about the unfortunates who give all dealers a bad reputation, I must add that there are considerably more reputable dealers with whom I, and hopefully others, are very happy to deal with. Still, I urge all collectors to be alert for unusual practices. Possibly others would care to add their comments?

THE CASE OF IRAQ Y21 100 FILS 1955 vs JOHN K. GRAVES

For the Plaintiff:

1. MODERN WORLD COINS, 9th Edition, Page 267:

|    |          |                  |      |
|----|----------|------------------|------|
| 19 | 20 Fils  | 1953 . . . . .   | 1.00 |
| 20 | 50 Fils  | 1953 . . . . .   | 5.00 |
| 21 | 100 Fils | 1953-55. . . . . | 2.50 |
2. CURRENT COINS OF THE WORLD, 4th Edition, Page 116:

|    |          |                  |      |
|----|----------|------------------|------|
| 19 | 20 Fils  | 1953 . . . . .   | 1.50 |
| 20 | 50 Fils  | 1953 . . . . .   | 7.50 |
| 21 | 100 Fils | 1953-55. . . . . | 3.00 |
3. CATALOGUE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR COINS, 1969 Enlarged and Revised Edition:

|    |          |                    |      |
|----|----------|--------------------|------|
| 15 | 100 Fils | 1953-55. . . . .   | 2.50 |
| 16 | 50 Fils  | 1953, 1955 . . . . | 1.25 |
| 17 | 20 Fils  | 1953, 1955 . . . . | 1.00 |
4. ROYAL MINT REPORT for the Year 1956:

|          |           |                |
|----------|-----------|----------------|
| 100 Fils | 1,000,000 | Coin Date 1955 |
|----------|-----------|----------------|
5. ROYAL MINT REPORT for the Year 1955:

|         |         |                |
|---------|---------|----------------|
| 50 Fils | 400,000 | Coin Date 1953 |
|---------|---------|----------------|
6. ROYAL MINT REPORT for the Year 1953:

|          |         |                |
|----------|---------|----------------|
| 20 Fils  | 250,000 | Coin Date 1953 |
| 50 Fils  | 400,000 | Coin Date 1953 |
| 100 Fils | 200,000 | Coin Date 1953 |
7. Letter from Sylvia Haffner dated May 28, 1971:

"Collectors Research says they have the 100 fils dated 1955 in their house collection."

For the Defendant:

1. Statement: I do not believe 100 Fils coins dated 1955 exist or were ever struck. I shall extend my written apologies to the first person who shows me such a piece. Now my defense.
2. Iraq has often repeated coin dates in numerous strike years, particularly coins dated 1938. It did so for the 50 Fils coins struck in 1955.
3. 20 Fils and 50 Fils coins dated 1953 are very hard to find and generally somewhat more expensive than the above noted authorities would indicate. 100 Fils coins dated 1953 are generally somewhat easier to find. The Mint Reports indicate the smallest mintage for the 100 Fils coins dated 1953. Yet availability does not bear this out.
4. Collectors Research does not have the 100 Fils dated 1955, but rather a note on the 1953 dated coin envelope that the 1955 dated coin is not a part of the inventory. (Personally examined October 1, 1971.)
5. The Royal Mint apparently never retained a specimen of the 1956 strike, therefore is relying strictly on its 1956 report. Though seldom, errors have occurred in Royal Mint Reports.
6. The Editors of the "Brown Book" and the "White Book" have not visually verified the existence of a 100 Fils coin dated 1955 as of my last query.
7. Defense rests. (How about proving me wrong. John K. Graves)

# BOOK REVIEWS

"THE EVER VICTORIOUS, A Beginner's Guide to Ottoman Empire Numismatics", by Jem Sultan. 96 pages, 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 ins., illus., line drawings and 5 plates of coin types. 1971, paper covers, \$3.00 (available from author, Santa Monica, California):

The author of this well organized handbook for beginners has devoted a great deal of time and research in the weighing, attribution and classifying a large variety of Turkish coins. He has had much practical experience in lecturing to members of coin clubs about this subject, which has enabled him to include in this booklet many facts about the history of the Osmanli sultans and their vast empire, interlarded with some statements of doubtful origin. The supplementary information, clearly presented, covers such matters as the transliteration of Arabic script as used for the names of the rulers, mints, personal eulogies, etc. A note on the construction of the tughra attracts the reader by its simplicity.

The reader is taken carefully through the above mentioned introductory matter which has been cross-referenced to the classes of coinage ---four in all, an innovation by the author, who emphasizes why the coins of the later sultans should be the first to be considered, followed by the more difficult problems of coin identification which for the novice reach their peak in the class 1 of the series.

Advanced numismatists who have studied this series will be interested in the author's statement on coin nomenclature and its relation to the weight standards of certain gold and silver coins. This is a startling departure from the known facts as given in the basic works by the Turkish writers on the subject and followed by western writers ever since.

Other sections include the names of the sultans and mints in Arabic script in the form that they appear on the coins. Also there is a list of rare coins and known counterfeits, which would have been difficult for the beginner to compile from the literature available. A short bibliography is included.

The beginner will enjoy this useful book and will likely be drawn to the purchase of Valentine's book on the Muhammeden copper coins, as well as the classic illustrated catalogue by Nuri Pere and the four specialized paperback volumes written by Cuneyt Olcer.

Reviewed by Kenneth MacKenzie



"RARE OTTOMAN COINS AT SOVIET RUSSIAN MUSEUMS (Moscow and Leningrad)", by Cuneyt Olcer. 64 pages, with 63 line drawings of coins, and 5 plates illustrating 55 coins. The notes and introduction are in English. 6-1/2 x 9-1/4 ins., paper covers, Istanbul, 1972. Available from Numismata Orientalia, P. O. Box 212, Tenafly, N. J. 07670; \$5.00:

This is number 4 of Mr. Olcer's series of monographs covering all aspects of Ottoman coinage. It is based upon notes taken during a visit to the Soviet Union in the winter of 1971. The two collections examined were those in the Moscow National Museum and the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad.

The author was not able to inspect the silver coins in Moscow, but he did see the four hundred gold coins previously in the collection of P. V. Zukov, and these are described in the first 24 pages. They include 57 coins from Murad III to Abdul Aziz from various mints, including Samahi, Telemsen, Tripoli, Tunis, Algiers, Egypt, Aleppo, Islambol and Kostantinye.

Of the very rich Ottoman collection in Leningrad, over 20,000 coins, Olcer examined about 80%, and has described the very rare coins in pages 25-58. These fascinating coins are from the mints of Canice, Nahcivan, Revan, Shirwan (first time these have been illustrated), Gence, Damascus, Tabriz, Bagdad, Tiflis and Mecca, beside the above mints represented in Moscow. In all there are 64 silver, 2 gold and 6 copper coins. The line drawings are excellent, as is customary in the earlier volumes. No serious collector of this series should miss the chance of getting this fine work, which has just been released.

Reviewed by Kenneth MacKenzie



"A MANUAL OF MUSULMAN NUMISMATICS", by O. Codrington, M.D., F.S.A. (London: Royal Asiatic Society), 1904. (This excellent publication has been recently reprinted, however the information as to where you may obtain it is unavailable at press time. The below review is also a reprint from the Numismatic Chronicle, Series 4, Vol. 4, 1904, by Edward J. Rapson. Members interested in obtaining this reprint should contact NI member Pat Hogan for further information as he furnished the copy of Rapson's 1904 review below.)

There are certain difficult studies which, fortunately, admit of great simplification. The study of the numismatics of the Mohammadan powers, who have played so large and important a part in the history of the world, is one of these; and we have especially to thank two members of our own Society for making the way of the student in this field of oriental numismatics much easier than it was before. Prof. S. Lane-Poole's "Mohammadan Dynasties", which appeared in 1894, afforded a most useful clue through the complicated mazes of Mohammadan history; and now comes Dr. Codrington's "Manual" to simplify, in an equal degree, the more purely numismatic part of the subject -- the actual reading and identification of the coins. Its object is precisely that of Soret's "Elements de la Numismatique Musulmane", which appeared in the form of a series of three letters, addressed to M. Renier Chalon, in the "Revue de la Numismatique Belge" for the years 1864-5. The reprint in book-form of these letters is now extremely difficult to obtain; and the whole arrangement of the work is somewhat wanting in clearness and method -- a defect all the more serious as no index or table of contents is supplied. Dr. Codrington's aim has been both to simplify the information given by Soret, and to make his manual as complete as possible by adding results obtained from his own researches, and from the large literature on the subject which has appeared since the date of Soret's work. A general index at the beginning of the manual, giving on one page a conspectus of its contents, makes reference to the particular subject about which information is required easy and rapid; and the treatment of the various topics everywhere shows the hand of one who has thoroughly mastered them, who knows the difficulties from a long practical experience of the coins, and who is thus able to give others the benefit of his experience.

Dr. Codrington's "List of Mint Towns", which takes up no fewer than seventy-one out of the two hundred and forty pages of his manual, is by far the most complete list of the kind published\* (see Editor's Note at end of this review). On a rough calculation, it must contain the names of between a thousand and eleven hundred different places at which Mohammadan coins have been struck. These are conveniently arranged in alphabetical order, their precise geographical situation is given when possible, and any characteristic epithets which usually accompany them on the coins are also added.

Altogether, Dr. Codrington has produced a work which ought to do much for the promotion of the study which he has himself pursued so diligently. One only regrets that, having more than half a page to spare, he did not extend his "Table of Hijra and Christian Years" beyond A.H. 1325 = A.D. 1907, for his manual is destined to be widely used by students long after that date.

E. J. Rapson, 1904 Review

(Editor's Note: \*With the publication of Zambaur's "Die Munzprägungen des Islams", this is no longer true, i.e., Zambaur is now the most complete list of its kind. However, Codrington has Indian mints as well, and Zambaur does not. A second volume by Zambaur is expected to cover Indian Mints.)



"WORLD PROOF AND SPECIMEN ISSUES SINCE 1950", by Charles R. Hosch, 1971, 263 pages, valuations, soft cover, \$6.50. Available from the author, P. O. Box 28773, Atlanta, Ga. 30328.

This reference gives a complete, detailed listing of more than 540 proof sets and commemorative issues struck by all countries since 1950. Proof sets and individual proof coins are listed in alphabetical order by countries.

A table is given for the coins in each proof set, with the headings of denomination, Yeoman number, metal, diameter in millimeters, weight in grams, thickness in millimeters and the type of edge. A complete description of obverses and reverses is given, and mintage figures, mint marks and the mint are given for each proof set. Types of packaging, designers, original issue prices and current selling prices are also listed. At the end of the book appears explanatory data concerning "non-circulating legal tender" issues, a glossary of terms and a listing of non-circulating legal tender coins.

This is an excellent compilation of a most interesting field of numismatics, and could well encourage more collectors into entering the proof set field.

The book is printed on good quality, 7 by 9 inch paper with a stiff paper cover. It is not illustrated; actually, illustrations are unnecessary. Dealers should write the author for special prices.

Hosch is to be congratulated for the great amount of time he has expended in gathering such complete and detailed data on proof coins issued since 1950. The book should be a classic in its field.

Reviewed by Jerome H. Remick

"MONETY GRUZII" (Coins of Georgia), by E. A. Pakhomov, "Metsniyereba" Publishing House, Tbilisi, 1970, 2 rubles, 39 kopecks:

To say that numismatics, as we know it in the west, is thriving in the Communist countries of eastern Europe and western Asia would perhaps be an exaggeration. But government-sponsored numismatics is certainly alive. Of course, any speculation in coins is forbidden, and because of currency restrictions collectors must be content with what they can find locally, either from official government outlets or on the unofficial "free market", where counterfeits abound. Museum and historical research on coins, however, goes on apace. Newly discovered hoards are carefully studied and usually published.

Government approval of numismatics as a science is shown by the steady release of good numismatic compendia and monographs. A case in point is this new, carefully updated and edited edition of Pakhomov's Russian-language "Coins of Georgia". The first five chapters, covering the coins of Georgia from the 5th century B.C. till about 1240 A.D. was first published in 1910 and quickly became a standard reference book. A manuscript of the rest, reaching to the end of the 18th century, was sent to the printer in 1912. However, the slowness of the typography, the outbreak of World War I, which found Pakhomov in Batum and Erzerum trying to correct proofs, and new discoveries and researches which made the author want to revise and correct the text, continually delayed publication. Pakhomov brought the manuscript up to date to 1924. Page proofs of various parts survived.

The new editor, D. G. Kapandze, has undertaken to preserve Pakhomov's text intact, even to the retention of old geographic names and administrative divisions, and in some instances old spellings. He has, however, provided an extensive series of notes and commentaries at the end of Pakhomov's text, bringing the numismatic data up to date.

The plates vary in quality and some are quite poor.

The text is replete with historical and explanatory notes, and the restoration of Greek, Georgian, and Arabic legends would seem to be invaluable to the serious student.

I am not a Georgian specialist; I ordered the book to serve as a reference for the occasional coins that may come my way. I would think that it would be a must for the specialist. Judging from the bibliographies I have seen, books on Georgian numismatics are scarce. This one may be no exception. It had an initial printing of 2500 copies, barely enough to satisfy the public libraries of Georgia, the major libraries of other parts of the Soviet Union, and worldwide numismatic libraries that may hear about it. Books published in the Soviet Union go out of print quickly; often they are reprinted, but reprinting may succeed exhaustion of stocks only after an interval of months.

I bought my copy through an English importer for 1.35 pounds, which is extremely cheap for an important numismatic work of 352 pages and 24 plates. I suggest that those who are interested try importing it through the book importers in New York, Chicago, Washington, San Francisco, Los Angeles and possibly other places who specialize in supplying books of eastern Europe to libraries and individuals. The acquisitions units of local public or university libraries should be able to help.

Reviewed by Ralph S. Walker

# MEMBERS NOTICES:

William Spencer, P. O. Box 9684-A, El Paso, Texas 79986: I am re-searching banknotes of "El Banco De Mexico". I need the following information on 5 Peso through 1000 Peso notes with Series of 1 or 2 letters (1930-1961): Denomination, date of issue, series, full serial number, and other control figures or letters which might appear.

W. B. "Bud" Butterworth, 2115 West Long 17th, North Little Rock, Ark. 72114: Will trade Chinese Cash (square hole type) for notgeld paper money. Cash - some identified, some not. WRITE. Also, I still have some trade value due me from trades in the past with some members and as they have been unable to come up with coins I need, will accept any notgeld paper money, but would rather have German. Would like to get all my accounts squared away, so would appreciate your contact. THANKS.

Daniel K. E. Ching, Box 75423 - Sanford Sta., Los Angeles, Cal. 90075: Information needed on Manchukuo 10 Fen (Yr. 10), Yeoman No. 12, 1943. DOES IT REALLY EXIST?

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## NEW ISSUES WITH ASSIGNED YEOMAN NOS.

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| <u>COUNTRY</u>              | <u>TENTATIVE CATALOG NO. AND ISSUE</u>              |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| ALGERIA:                    | Y12 50 Centimes 1971,<br>Copper-Nickel-Zinc         |
| GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: | Y33 20 Mark 1972, Silver,<br>Schiller Commemorative |
| SOUTH VIETNAM:              | Y7a 1 Dong 1971,<br>Nickel-clad Steel               |

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COMMENT FROM LESTER D. SNELL ON A NEW ISSUE LISTING: On page 10 of the February 1972 NI Bulletin, China Y549 is listed and tentatively catalogued as a new issue.

This piece is of normal "50 Yuan" size, and although there is no denomination indicated in the inscription, this is not unusual for a Chinese coin.

I have, however, queried the Central Mint of China in Taipei, and have this word from Director W. Y. Kuo: " . . . the commemorative piece in question is solely intended to be a medal in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China, not an ordinary coin for circulation."